

CONCLUSION

Barbatus and *nigricans* seem not to be mature species, evolutionarily speaking, even though they may appear to be fully distinct species phenotypically.

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A new subspecies of the Wattled Bulbul *Pycnonotus urostictus*, of the Philippines

by KENNETH C. PARKES

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The endemic Philippine bulbul *Pycnonotus urostictus* is currently divided into three subspecies, characterized by Delacour and Mayr (*Birds of the Philippines*, 1946: 174) as "rather indistinct." Rand and Rabor (*Fieldiana: Zoology*, 35, 1960: 428), whose material was admittedly inadequate, provisionally accepted the three named races, stating that the differences observable in their series were "about at the level used to characterize lightly marked subspecies". On the basis of the characters presently used to define the three subspecies, namely the amount of white on the abdomen and the shade of colour of the brown upperparts, these authors are justified in considering the races recognizable but not strikingly

distinct. An additional excellent taxonomic character has been overlooked, however, in the colour of the rectrices. Study of a good series shows that the populations currently united under the name *P. u. urostictus* (Salvadori) actually comprise two subspecies, one of which requires a name. It may be called:

Pycnonotus urostictus atricaudatus, subsp. nov.

Type: American Museum of Natural History no. 708417, adult ♂, collected at San Isidro, Samar Island, Philippines, 20th April, 1957, by D. S. Rabor (collector's no. 15046).

Characters: Differs from *P. u. urostictus* (type locality Luzon) in having rectrices much blacker, and white spots on tips of all rectrices decidedly larger; in *urostictus* there is little or no white at the tips of the central pair of rectrices, while in *atricaudatus* these feathers have a distinct white tip. Differs from *P. u. philippensis* (Hachisuka) (as exemplified by specimens from eastern Mindanao; topotypes from Dinagat were not available) in having somewhat blacker rectrices and a smaller area of white on the abdomen. Differs from *P. u. basilanicus* (Steere) of Basilan in the same way, also in having the back browner, less olivaceous.

Range: Islands of Samar, Leyte and Bohol, Philippines.

Remarks: Although the populations here described as *atricaudatus* were previously united with nominate *urostictus*, the new subspecies shares its broad white tail-tips with the two previously recognized southern races, *philippensis* and *basilanicus*. The blackness of the tail of *atricaudatus* is not a function of museum age; recently collected specimens were available from most islands, and a specimen collected on Samar in 1896 does not differ in tail colour from a series taken in 1957 (colour comparisons described here were made in 1962).

The Wattled Bulbuls of the island of Mindanao as a whole have generally been assigned to the subspecies *philippensis*. Examination of a good series from the Zamboanga Peninsula of westernmost Mindanao, however, shows clearly that the population of this area is closer to *basilanicus* than to *philippensis*. The amount of white on the underparts is about the same in these two subspecies, but in *philippensis* there is a clearly defined contrast between the breast and abdomen, while in *basilanicus* there is a blending at this border. In addition, *basilanicus* is greener (less brown) dorsally, and has distinctly yellowish axillars and under wing-coverts (these feathers being white in *philippensis*). The northern races *atricaudatus* and *urostictus* are also yellower in these under wing areas than is the geographically intermediate *philippensis*.

Among the populations here considered *urostictus*, that of Polillo may prove separable, as the few specimens available appear to be smaller than Luzon birds; possible colour differences cannot now be assessed, as the Polillo birds before me are in worn plumage. A single specimen from Catanduanes resembles Luzon birds but has even narrower white tail-tips.

Specimens examined: *P. u. urostictus*—Luzon, 18; Polillo, 4; Catanduanes, 1. *P. u. atricaudatus*—Samar, 8; Leyte, 6; Bohol, 4. *P. u. philippensis*—Eastern Mindanao, 6. *P. u. basilanicus*—Basilan, 7; Zamboanga Peninsula, western Mindanao, 19.